

2008 DEC 22 AM 9:53

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

☐ Original ☐ Amendment

U.S. House of Representatives
110th Congress

EMPLOYEE
POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from private sources for meetings, speaking engagements, fact-finding trips, or similar events undertaken in connection with official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report all privately-funded travel on the annual Financial Disclosure Statements of those persons required to file them. In accordance with House Rule 25, clause 5, complete this form and file it with the Clerk of the House of Representatives, B-106 Cannon House Office Building, within **15 days** after travel is completed. The Clerk is to make the second page of this form publicly available as soon as possible after it is filed.

Name of Traveler (print or type): Austin Weatherford

I certify that the information contained on all pages of this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

SIGNATURE OF TRAVELER:

Austin Weatherford

DATE:

Dec 22, 2008

I authorized this travel in advance. I have determined that all of the expenses listed on this form were necessary and that the travel was in connection with the employee's official duties and would not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

NAME OF SUPERVISING MEMBER:

K MICHAEL CONNANAY

SIGNATURE OF SUPERVISING MEMBER:

K. Michael Connanay

DATE:

[Signature]

CONNANAY.

☐ Original ☐ Amendment

EMPLOYEE
POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

1. Name of Traveler (print or type): AUSTIN W. EATHELEY
2. a. Name of Accompanying Family Member (if any): _____
b. Relationship to Employee: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child ☐ Other (specify): _____
3. a. Date of Departure and Date of Return: NOV 31 - DEC 4
b. Dates at personal expense (if any): _____
4. Itinerary (cities of departure – destination – return): WASHINGTON, DC
CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA, PORT ELIZABETH, SOUTH AFRICA
5. Sponsor(s) (who paid for the trip): INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION COMMISSION
FOUNDATION AND DIAL MEXICO FOUNDATION
6. Describe meetings and events attended (attach additional pages if necessary): SEE ATTACHMENT
7. Attached to this form are EACH of the following (signify that each item is attached by checking the corresponding box):
a. ☒ the Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form completed by the trip sponsor, including all attachments;
b. ☒ the Traveler Form completed by the employee; and
c. ☒ the Committee on Standards' letter approving my participation on this trip.
8. a. I represent that I participated in each of the activities reflected in the sponsor's agenda. (Signify that statement is true by checking box): ☒
b. If not, explain: _____
9. TRAVEL EXPENSES: Obtain actual dollar amounts from the sponsor. If exact dollar amounts are unavailable by the due date, provide a good faith estimate and file an amended form once the correct amounts are received.

	Total Transportation Expenses	Total Lodging Expenses	Total Meal Expenses
For employee:	\$1,645	\$1,230	\$450
For accompanying family member:	-		

	Other Expenses (dollar amount)	Specific Nature of Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For employee:	\$225	Grand Transport
For accompanying family member:		

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Standards of Official Conduct

PRIVATELY SPONSORED TRAVEL: TRAVELER FORM
For Members, Officers, and Employees

This form should be completed by House Members, officers, or employees seeking Committee approval of privately-sponsored travel or reimbursement for travel under House Rule 25, clause 5. The completed form should be submitted directly to the Committee by each invited House Member, officer, or employee, together with the completed and signed Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form and any attachments. A copy of this form, minus this initial page, will be made available for public inspection. *Please type form. Form (and any attachments) may be faxed to the Committee at (202) 225-7392.*

YOUR COMPLETED REQUEST MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE COMMITTEE NO LESS THAN 14 DAYS BEFORE YOUR PROPOSED DEPARTURE DATE. Absent exceptional circumstances, permission will not be granted for requests received less than 14 days before the trip commences.

Name of Traveler: Austin Weatherford

I certify that the information contained on both pages of this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: _____

Name of Signatory (if other than traveler): _____

For staff, name of employing Member/Committee: K. Michael Conaway

Office address: 511 CHOB

Phone number: 202.225.3605

Email address of contact person: austin.weatherford@mail.house.gov

- ☐ Check this box if the sponsoring entity is a media outlet and the traveler is a Member traveling to make a media appearance sponsored by that entity and these forms are being submitted to the Committee less than 14 days before the trip departure date.

NOTE: You must complete the contact information fields above, as Committee staff may need to contact you if additional information is required.

If there are any questions regarding this form please contact the Committee:

Committee on Standards of Official Conduct
U.S. House of Representatives
HT-2, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-7103 (phone)
(202) 225-7392 (fax)

20. TOTAL EXPENSES FOR EACH PARTICIPANT:

<input type="checkbox"/> actual amounts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good faith estimates	Total <i>Transportation</i> Expenses per Participant	Total <i>Lodging</i> Expenses per Participant	Total <i>Meal</i> Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or employee	\$1,645.00	\$1,230.00	\$450
For each accompanying family member	N/A	N/A	N/A

	<i>Other</i> Expenses (dollar amount)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or employee	\$225	Ground transportation
For each accompanying family member	N/A	N/A

21. I represent that all expenses connected to the trip will be for actual costs incurred and not a per diem or lump sum payment (signify that the statement is true by checking box): ☒

22. I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: _____

Name and title: John T. Forrester, Chief Operations Officer

Organization: International Conservation Caucus Foundation

Address: 3250 Prospect St. NW, Washington, DC, 20007

Telephone number: 202-471-4222

Fax number: 202-471-4233

Email Address: johnforrester@iccfoundation.us

The Committee staff may contact the above individual if additional information is required.

If there are any questions regarding this form please contact the Committee at the following address:

Committee on Standards of Official Conduct
U.S. House of Representatives
HT-2, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-7103 (phone)
(202) 225-7392 (general fax)

Version date 8/2008 by Committee on Standards of Official Conduct

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Standards of Official Conduct

PRIVATELY SPONSORED TRAVEL: TRAVELER FORM
For Members, Officers, and Employees

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YOUR COMPLETED REQUEST MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE COMMITTEE NO LESS THAN 14 DAYS BEFORE YOUR PROPOSED DEPARTURE DATE. Absent exceptional circumstances, permission will not be granted for requests received less than 14 days before the trip commences.

Name of Traveler: Austin Weatherford

I certify that the information contained on both pages of this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: 

Name of Signatory (if other than traveler): _____

For staff, name of employing Member/Committee: K. Michael Conaway

Office address: 511 CHOB

Phone number: 202.225.3605

Email address of contact person: austin.weatherford@mail.house.gov

☐ Check this box if the sponsoring entity is a media outlet and the traveler is a Member traveling to make a media appearance sponsored by that entity and these forms are being submitted to the Committee less than 14 days before the trip departure date.

NOTE: You must complete the contact information fields above, as Committee staff may need to contact you if additional information is required.

If there are any questions regarding this form please contact the Committee:

Committee on Standards of Official Conduct
U.S. House of Representatives
HT-2, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-7103 (phone)
(202) 225-7392 (fax)

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Standards of Official Conduct

PRIVATELY SPONSORED TRAVEL: TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Austin Weatherford
2. Sponsor(s) (who will be paying for the trip): International Conservation Caucus Foundation and the Niall Mellon Foundation
3. Travel destination(s): South Africa
4. a. Date of Departure and Date of Return: November 29-December 9th, 2008
- b. Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense? ☐ Yes ☒ No
- If yes, dates at personal expense: _____
5. a. Will you be accompanied by a family member at the sponsor's expense? ☐ Yes ☒ No
- b. If yes, name of accompanying family member: _____
- c. Relationship to traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child ☐ Other (specify): _____
6. a. Did the trip sponsor answer "yes" to Question 9(c) on the Trip Sponsor form (i.e., the travel is being sponsored by an entity that employs a lobbyist)? ☐ Yes ☒ No
- b. If yes, check one of the following: ☐ N/A – Sponsor checked 9(a) or 9(b)
- (1) Approval for one-night's lodging and meals is being requested: ☐ or
- (2) Approval for two-nights' lodging and meals is being requested: ☐
- If "(2)" is checked, explain why the second night is warranted: _____
7. Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form is attached, including agenda, invitee list, and any other attachments (indicate that form is attached by checking box): ☒
8. Explain why participation in the trip is connected to your individual official or representational duties:
- As a senior policy advisor I am responsible for policy work related to environment, conservation and natural resource management.
- The trips focus is a comparative observance of International efforts in combating AIDS and poverty in Africa.

9. **FOR STAFF:**
TO BE COMPLETED BY YOUR EMPLOYING MEMBER:

I hereby authorize the individual named above, an employee of the U.S. House of Representatives who works under my direct supervision, to accept expenses for the trip described in this request. I have determined that the above-described travel is in connection with my employee's official duties and that acceptance of these expenses will not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Date: OCT 30

K. J. [Signature]
Signature of Employing Member

NOTE: This page must be submitted with your post-travel disclosure form within 15 days of your return, so you should maintain a photocopy of the completed form for your records.

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Standards of Official Conduct

PRIVATE SPONSOR TRAVEL CERTIFICATION FORM
(provide directly to each House invitee)

This form should be completed by private entities offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. A completed copy of the form (and any attachments) should be provided to each invited House Member, officer, or employee, who will then forward it to the Committee together with a Traveler Form. The trip sponsor should NOT submit the form directly to the Committee. *You must answer every question on the form.*

1. Sponsor(s) (who will be paying for the trip): International Conservation Caucus Foundation and the Niall Mellon Foundation
2. I represent that the trip will not be financed (in whole or in part) by a federally-registered lobbyist or a registered foreign agent (*Signify that the statement is true by checking box*): ☒
3. I represent that the trip sponsor(s) has not accepted from any other source funds earmarked directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip (*Signify that the statement is true by checking box*): ☒
4. Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)? ☐ Yes ☒ No
5. Provide names and titles of ALL House invitees; for each invitee, provide explanation of why the individual was invited (include additional pages if necessary): member in each office responsible for policy work related to environment, conservation and natural resource mgmt.
member in each office responsible for policy work related to environment, conservation and natural resource mgmt.
6. Dates of travel: November 29th-December 9th, 2008 (inclusive of travel dates)
7. Cities of departure – destination – return: Washington-Capetown-Port Elizabeth-Washington
8. Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities taking place during the travel (*i.e.*, an hourly description of planned activities) (*Signify "yes" by checking box*): ☒
9. I represent that (*check one of the following*):
 - a. The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965: ☐ *or*
 - b. The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent: ☒ *or*
 - c. The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event *and* lobbyist/foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations. ☐
10. If travel is for participation in a one-day event (*i.e.*, if you checked Question 9(c)), check one of the following:
 - a. N/A – I checked 9(a) or (b) above: ☐
 - b. One-night's lodging and meals are being offered: ☐ *or*
 - c. Two-nights' lodging and meals are being offered: ☐
If "c" is checked, explain why the second night is warranted: N/A

11. Check one:
- I represent that a federally-registered lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip (*Signify that the statement is true by checking box*): ☒ or
 - N/A – trip sponsor is an institution of higher education. ☐
12. Private sponsors must have a direct and immediate relationship to the purpose of the trip or location being visited. Describe the purpose of the trip and the role of each sponsor in organizing and conducting the trip:
Deriving commitment to the importance of natural resource management globally through education
in the field. For leaders to experience first hand, the challenges and opportunities associated with
conservation programs and challenges on the ground.
13. a. Describe the mode of travel (air, rail, bus, etc.). For air travel, also indicate the type of aircraft (commercial, charter, or privately owned) and class of travel (coach, business class, first class, etc.):
International flights and domestic connections provided are commercial, coach class only.
- b. If travel will be first class or by chartered or private aircraft, provide an explanation describing why such travel is warranted: N/A
14. I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). (*Signify that the statement is true by checking box*): ☒
15. I represent that either (*check one of the following*):
- The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees: ☐ or
 - The trip involves events that are arranged *specifically with regard* to congressional participation: ☒
If "b" is checked, detail the cost per day of meals (approximate cost may be provided): \$50.00
16. Reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: Excellent venues including good examples of public/private conservation programs in place. Local NGO partners are available to support mission activities.
17. Name of hotel or other lodging facility: Table Bay Hotel(Capetown); Shamwari (Eastern Cape)
18. Cost per night of hotel or other lodging facility (approximate cost may be provided): _____
approximately \$130 depending on the exchange rate.
19. Reason(s) for selecting hotel or other lodging facility: affordability and availability; conservation sites primarily located in and around selected properties.

Invitees for the South African StaffDel- DEC 2008



Austin Weatherford Legislative Assistant for Representative Mike Conaway;

Mike Ryan, Legislative Assistant for Representative Congressman Steve Israel;

Michael Collins, Chief of Staff for Representative John Lewis;

Francis Gibbs, Legislative Director for Representative Connie Mack;

Kerry McKenney, Chief of Staff for Representative Donald Payne;

Stephanie Gidigbi, Legislative Assistant for Representative Donald Payne;

Arshi Siddiqui Legislative Assistant for Representative Nancy Pelosi

Stephen Martinko Legislative Director for Representative Bill Shuster.



**U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
&
U.S. SENATE**

**Staff Delegation to South Africa
November 30- December 9, 2008**

Sunday November 30

3:00 pm Arrive at Washington-Dulles Airport (IAD). John Forrester, from the International Conservation Caucus Foundation, will be there to meet the delegation and distribute briefing books.

Each member of the delegation will receive a briefing book that will cover general topics on South Africa (historical summary, current economic & political conditions, education, health/AIDS, and other aspects of U.S.-South Africa relationship) and provide detailed information on conservation work and all site visits planned.

5:20 pm Depart IAD for Capetown via Johannesburg (JNB). Flight SA 208.

Monday December 1

3:45-5:00 pm Arrive in Johannesburg (JNB). Proceed through customs; transfer to SAA domestic terminal.

5:00-7:00 pm Travel from Johannesburg to Cape Town, SA.

7:00-8:30 pm Arrive in Cape Town and greeted at airport by Mr. Niall Mellon, NMTT. While at JNB, John Forrester will provide an overview of the ICCF and its 'Teddy Roosevelt' approach to conservation and natural resource management. Staff will have the opportunity to discuss and ask any preliminary questions regarding topics covered in the briefing book.

8:30 – 10.30 pm Welcome briefing provided to the Delegation by Mr. Paddy Maguinness on The Niall Mellon Township Trust itinerary and by Mr. John Forrester on the ICCF schedule. Dinner will follow the reception and briefing.

Accommodation: The Commodore Hotel

Tuesday, December 2

7:30-8:00 am Breakfast briefing: Kevin Gilna will provide an overview of Imizamo Yethu township housing projects and the challenges associated with the projects.

8:00 – 11.00am Leave by coach from the hotel and visit with community and political leaders at Imizamo Yethu township housing projects on the outskirts on Cape Town. Mr. Paddy Maguinness will accompany and brief the group on the work that the charity is doing in the township in providing housing, community centers, health care and educational facilities.

11:00 – 1:00 Depart for meeting with Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Archbishop Tutu will provide the Delegation with a detailed briefing on the current economic and political situation in South Africa and on the lack of basic services and facilities for shack dwellers.

1:00 – 4:00pm Meeting with the Mayor of Cape Town followed by lunch. The Mayor will provide the Delegation with a briefing on the future development plans for the Cape Town and the proposals the City have to provide housing, health, education and employment opportunities for its citizens.

4:00 – 6:30 pm Meeting with the Premier of the Western Cape to discuss the economic and political outlook for the province and to establish the extend of the challenges and opportunities facing the region.

6:30 – 9:00pm Dinner briefing with Mr. Shaun Johnson, Chief Executive Officer of the Mandela Foundation. Mr. Johnson will provide the Delegation with a detail briefing on the aims and objectives of the Mandela Foundation.

9:00-9:30pm Return to the Hotel

Accommodation: The Commodore Hotel

Wednesday, December 3

- 7:30-8:00 am Breakfast briefing: Kevin Gilna will provide an overview about Freedom Park, facilities in the Mfulini & Netreg townships, and the work being conducted by Niall Mellon.
- 8:00 –10.30am Depart by coach and visit Freedom Park one of the largest townships in the region where meetings will be held with village elders, community workers, teachers and health workers.
- 10:30 –1:00pm Lunch meeting with USAID representatives to discuss their work in the South Africa and to visit some of the projects they have funded in the Cape Town region.
- 1:00 –7:00pm Visit a school, Daycare center & healthcare facility in the Mfulini & Netreg townships and the Delegation members will officially hand over the keys to new homes to successful applicant families.
- 7:00-9:00pm Dinner meeting with Niall Mellon, Founder of the NMTT and other officials and volunteers.
- 9.00-9:30pm Return to Hotel.

Accommodation: The Commodore Hotel

Thursday, December 4

- 8:00-1:30pm The Delegation will spend the morning helping to build homes with 2,000 other volunteers from around the world who volunteer to build homes in Cape Town as part of the NMTT house building blitz. The Delegation will also get to meet with volunteers from the US who will be participating in the building program.
- 1:30 – 2.30pm Lunch in the township with other house building volunteers.
- 2:30 - 4:00 pm Travel from Cape Town to Port Elizabeth.
- 4:00 - 5:30 pm Transfer and travel to Shawari Reserve.
- 5:30 - 7:30 pm Arrive at Shamwari Reserve; unpack; prepare for dinner.
- 7:30 - 7:45 pm John Forrester will detail the purpose and specific activities for the delegation while in the Eastern Cape and will introduce local rangers and other guests.

7:45-10:00 pm Dinner briefing organized by Shamwari Reserve and the leadership of the Wilderness Foundation.

Members of the delegation will have time to talk with staff, rangers, and community members of the Shamwari Reserve. This will provide an opportunity to assess the many issues that face the project.

Accommodation: Shamwari Reserve

Friday, December 5

7:30-8:00 am Breakfast briefing: Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP). John Forrester will give a brief overview of the CBFP, a U.S. Government-led initiative.

The Congo Basin forest is the world's second largest tropical forest, covering 700,000 square miles in six countries, and containing a quarter of the world's remaining tropical forest. This vast area hosts a wealth of biodiversity, including over 10,000 species of plants, 1,000 species of birds, and 400 species of mammals. It is also home to more than 24 million people, most of whom depend on the forest for their livelihoods.

These livelihoods are under threat by the continued loss of the forest. Logging, often illegal or unregulated, and clearing of land for agriculture are eating away at the intact ecosystems, which are being degraded at the rate of two million acres every year. And the hunting of wildlife to supply urban and commercial forestry settlement markets may represent a more immediate and significant threat to the forest than deforestation itself.

To protect this invaluable forest area the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) was created, which was announced by the United States at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002. The result of five years of hard work and commitment by devoted groups of individuals, governments, organizations, CBPF brings together governments, international organizations, non-governmental environmental organizations, industry, and civil society in a strong international partnership to manage the Congo Basin in a sustainable manner.

8:00-11:00 am Tour Shamwari Reserve with local staff and members of the Wilderness Foundation, who will detail the reserve's unique conservation ethic and history.

- 11:00 -noon Breakout sessions to discuss CBFP and other key areas where U.S. involvement in conservation is showing measurable results.
- 12:00-1:30 pm Lunch briefing with Wilderness Veterinary Team for Shamwari Reserve.
- 1:30-4:30 pm Afternoon briefing on Private Investment in Conservation with Andrew Muir.

Presentation on the integration of private investment into conservation initiatives, taking Shamwari as the chief example. Shamwari, an area of some 49,000 acres, was founded in 1992 from the amalgamation of several unprofitable farms. At the time, the land was composed of overgrazed pastures, with little vegetation and animal life. Since then, Shamwari has engaged in large-scale soil rehabilitation and animal re-introduction programs. By 2001, the Reserve could boast the presence of the lion, the leopard, and the brown hyena. In addition, much of the original vegetation has returned.

It is the belief of Shamwari's founder, Adrian Gardiner, that conservation can be profitable—that financial success and conservation success could be achieved simultaneously. Today, Shamwari employs 250 people and has become a prime destination for tourists from around the world.

- 4:30 -7:00 pm Field briefing led by Shamwari Wildlife Veterinarian on specific challenges facing the wildlife management team.
- 7:00-10:00 pm Dinner briefing and discussion about the nature of public-private partnerships in Africa and the potential of private investment to spearhead conservation initiatives on the continent. The delegation will discuss specific partnerships initiated by U.S. government, corporate and private investment, continuing discussion of the projects discussed during the breakout sessions.

Accommodation: Shamwari Reserve

Saturday, December 6

- 8:00-9:00 am Breakfast with local rangers and briefing session on day's activities.
- 9:00-10:00 am Travel to Bushman Sands.

In much the same way that Shamwari was transformed from barren farmland into one of the world's top conservation destinations, this initiative seeks to become a model of transformation for a previously disadvantaged community and the turnaround of a rural town.

At the centre of the transformation of Alicedale is Bushman Sands. Named after the historic Bushman's River, Bushman Sands has provided the impetus

for new investment and the sustainability for ongoing growth and development of the town. Constructed in June 2003, Bushman Sands created direct employment for 374 people, all of whom were selected from the existing Alicedale community. ECDC estimates that each breadwinner in this community provides for up to seven dependents. This takes the number affected by the initial employment through this project to 2800 - more than half the local population. Upon completion, Bushman Sands now provides approximately 150 permanent jobs for the local residents of Alicedale.

The rangers presently guiding tourists around the Bushman Sands game reserve were all previously unemployed. For Patrick Mgoqi, October's salary was the first he had received in 8 years since completing matric. Nomawethu Stuurman, on the other hand, was studying at Border Technikon in 2002, but could not complete her course because of financial problems. For her, the opportunity to gain an income while improving her skills in game and environmental management, tourism and hospitality has provided hope.

- 10:00am-noon Meet and greet/overview of the Bushman Sands Community given by community leaders.
- 12:00-1:00 pm Lunch briefing with the leadership of Bushman Sands Community.
- 1:00-2:00 pm Return to Shamwari Reserve.
- 2:00-4:30 pm Afternoon briefing on Coral Triangle and the Micronesia Challenge.
- 4:30-7:30 pm Field activity. Visit to the Born Free Foundation.

The Born Free Foundation is at the forefront of drawing the public's attention to the plight of wild animals confined in impoverished captive environments and promoting, through education and public awareness, a humane agenda.

It is the mission of both The Born Free Foundation and Shamwari Reserve to promote the conservation of species and the protection of habitat while maintaining a humane and compassionate approach to the welfare of animals.

In partnership with actress/conservationist Virginia McKenna's Born Free Foundation, Shamwari Reserve designed the Born Free Foundation Animal Rescue and Education Centre to incorporate a museum and educational facility whose goal is to create an awareness of the way in which wildlife, if not properly monitored, can be exploited in captivity around the world.

- 7:30-10:00 pm Dinner and discussion of day's activities. The focus will be on the importance of conservation for local communities.

Accommodation: Shamwari Reserve

Sunday, December 7

- 8:00-9:00 am Breakfast briefing on the importance of sustainable utilization; will build upon the current debate on hunting within Southern Africa.

Examples will be provided to weigh the relative merits of hunting in Southern Africa, including WWF's Living in A Finite Environment Program (L.I.F.E.), which depends upon trophy hunting for its tremendous success within Namibia.

- 9:00-12:00 am Morning briefing/ field activity. Wilderness drive; Q&A with Shamwari Rangers.

- 12:00-1:00 pm Lunch briefing by John Forrester on tropical forest conservation and its ramifications for African forests.

- 1:00-4:00 pm Group discussion; recap of the mission; evaluation of mission goals.

- 4:00-7:00 pm Final field activity. Wilderness walk; Q&A with Shamwari Rangers, officials of the WILD Foundation, the Wilderness Foundation.

The delegation will have the opportunity to venture out into the reserve on foot to learn more about the unique flora and fauna of the reserve. They will also have the opportunity to employ tracking methods.

- 7:00-10:00pm Dinner briefing with Roelf Meyer, ANC to discuss political history of South Africa, with a focus on current U.S.-South Africa relations.

As chief negotiator for the National Party (NP) government, Roelf Meyer was intimately involved in the negotiations on the settlement of the South African conflict. In this capacity he negotiated the end of apartheid together with Cyril Ramaphosa, chief negotiator for the African National Congress (ANC).

These negotiations resulted in the first democratic elections in South Africa at the end of April 1994. After the elections Meyer continued in the portfolio of Constitutional Affairs in the cabinet of former President Nelson Mandela. Meyer, now a member of the ANC, is currently a business partner of Mr. Ramaphosa and acts as a mediator in peace processes throughout the world.

Accommodation: Shamwari Reserve

Monday, December 8

- 7:00-8:00 am Breakfast discussion and questions posed to rangers on activities at Shamwari over the past few days.
- 8:00-9:00 am Pack; prepare for departure to United States.
- 9:00-12:30 am Depart Shamwari for Port Elizabeth.
- 12:30-2:30 pm Travel from Port Elizabeth to JNB. Flight SA 410. *Transfer to SAA International Terminal.*
- 2:30-6:15 pm Overview and final discussion of the mission conducted by David H. Barron; participants will fill in questionnaire.
- 6:15 pm Depart JNB, Flight SA 207 to IAD.

Monday, December 9

- 6:00 am Arrive in Washington-Dulles International Airport (IAD).

STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, OHIO
CHAIRWOMAN

GENE GREEN, TEXAS
LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, CALIFORNIA
MICHAEL F. DOYLE, PENNSYLVANIA
WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT, MASSACHUSETTS

WILLIAM V. O'REILLY,
CHIEF COUNSEL/STAFF DIRECTOR
DAWN KELLY MOBLEY,
COUNSEL TO THE CHAIRWOMAN

ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF
OFFICIAL CONDUCT

Washington, DC 20515-6328

DOC HASTINGS, WASHINGTON
RANKING REPUBLICAN MEMBER

JO BONNER, ALABAMA
J. GRESHAM BARRETT, SOUTH CAROLINA
JOHN KLINE, MINNESOTA
MICHAEL T. McCAUL, TEXAS

TODD UNGERRECHT
COUNSEL TO THE RANKING
REPUBLICAN MEMBER

SUITE HT-2, THE CAPITOL
(202) 225-7103

October 31, 2008

Mr. Austin Weatherford
Office of the Honorable K. Michael Conaway
511 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Weatherford:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct hereby approves your proposed trip to Cape Town and Port Elizabeth, South Africa scheduled for November 29 to December 9, 2008 sponsored by the International Conservation Caucus and the Niall Mellon Foundation.

You must complete an Employee Travel Disclosure Form (which your employing Member must also sign) and file it with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you are required to attach a copy of this letter and the Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form, including all attachments. You must also include a copy of the Traveler Form completed by you and signed by your employing Member. If you are required to file an annual Financial Disclosure Statement, you must also report all travel expenses totaling more than \$335 from a single source on Schedule VII of that statement.

Because the trip may involve meetings with foreign government representatives, we note that House employees may accept, under the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act, gifts "of minimal value [currently \$335] tendered as a souvenir or mark of courtesy" by a foreign government. Any tangible gifts valued in excess of \$335 received from a foreign government must, within 60 days of acceptance, be disclosed on a Form for Disclosing Gifts from Foreign Governments and either turned over to the Clerk of the House, or, with the written approval of the Committee, retained for official use.

However, we would note that since this trip is scheduled to commence after the general election on November 4, 2008 and because officially-connected travel must be related to official duties, it may be questionable whether an employee of a Member who was not reelected in the general election should accept an invitation for a trip that is fact-finding in nature. Arguably, as of that time, the official responsibilities that may justify the acceptance of travel expenses for such a purpose will have come to an end. This consideration generally will not limit the Committee's authority to approve travel of the staff of a departing Member to participate substantially in an officially-related event (for

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example, to give a speech). Please keep this guidance in mind, as you and your employing Member may need to reevaluate your ability to participate in the trip following the election.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Committee's Office of Advice and Education at extension 5-7103.



Gene Green
Acting Chairman

Sincerely,



Doc Hastings
Ranking Republican Member

GG/DH:ced